

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP

JERSEY CITY, NJ.
JERSEY JOURNAL

E. 92,204

CPYRGHT

APR 17 1965

Civilians at the Top

Director John A. McCone of the Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian as was his predecessor. This succession of non-military CIA chiefs was a gratifying change from the earlier practice, which saw an admiral and a general named as the first bosses of the agency after World War II. For the CIA is a civilian agency, and having a civilian chief is in line with a wise American preference of long standing.

It is thus something of a disappointment that President Johnson has chosen Vice Adm. William F. Raborn Jr. (Ret.) to succeed McCone, who is soon to retire at his own request. There is no doubt that Raborn is an able man. His administrative talent was notably shown when he managed the crash program for development of the Polaris submarine and missile. But his military experience will undoubtedly modify his approach to what ought to be a civilian job.

The extent of the danger inherent in this should not be exaggerated. In the present instance, the sting is somewhat lessened by the fact that a civilian now in the CIA, Richard McG. Helms, will be deputy director under Raborn. But military men should remain in the armed services except when there are the most compelling special reasons to place one of them in a high civilian post.